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Agenda items 66, 80 and 100

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Right of peoples to self-determination

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 20 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in reference to the release on bail of the notorious international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, by decision of a United States court.

With this decision, the Government of the United States is once again ignoring its commitments under the international conventions on terrorism to which it is a party and numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

Cuba once again denounces the complicity and full responsibility of the Government of the United States concerning the release of this self-confessed terrorist, who was responsible for the mid-air bombing of a Cuban aircraft which caused the death of 73 innocent civilians of different nationalities, among countless other terrorist acts against Cuba and other countries.

I have the honour to attach a statement by the revolutionary Government of Cuba condemning this event (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66, 80 and 100, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Diaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-31666 (E) 260407 270407

Annex to the letter dated 20 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Revolutionary Government of Cuba

19 April 2007

Cuba condemns the shameless decision to release terrorist Luis Posada Carriles and singles out the United States Government as solely responsible for this ruthless and infamous act aimed at buying the terrorist's silence concerning his crimes in the service of the CIA, particularly when former President Bush was its Director.

With this decision, the United States Government has ignored the clamour that has arisen throughout the world, even within the United States, at the impunity and political manipulation this action entails.

This decision is an outrage to the Cuban people and to the nations that lost 73 of their sons and daughters in the heinous 1976 attack that blew up a civilian Cubana de Aviación aircraft off the coast of Barbados.

This decision is an outrage to the people of the United States and an emphatic denial of the alleged war on terror declared by the Government of President George W. Bush.

To prevent Posada's release it would have sufficed for the Government of the United States to certify that he was a terrorist, and, in conformity with section 412 of the United States Patriot Act, to acknowledge that "his release will threaten the national security of the United States or the safety of the community or any person".

The Government of the United States could also have enforced the regulations allowing the Immigration and Naturalization Service to retain in United States territory a non-admissible alien who is subject to deportation. For that, it would have sufficed for the United States authorities to conclude that Posada Carriles is a risk to the community or that releasing him would entail risk of flight.

Why did the Government of the United States allow the terrorist to enter United States soil freely despite the warnings expressed by President Fidel Castro?

Why did the United States Government protect him during the months that he stayed in its territory illegally?

Why, if it had all the elements to that end, did it restrict itself, last 11 January, to charging him with misdemeanours and other strictly migration-oriented issues and not with what he is really all about: murder?

Why is he being released when Judge Kathleen Cardone herself, in her ruling of 6 April ordering the terrorist's release, acknowledged that he is accused of "being involved in or associated with some of the most infamous events of the twentieth century"? Some of these acts include the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Iran-Contra scandal, the mid-air explosion of Cubana de Aviación flight 455, the bombs planted in tourist resorts in Havana in 1997 and, according to some conspiracy theoreticians, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Why is the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Homeland Security Department of the United States not using the mechanisms that it has available to hold the terrorist in prison, with the unquestionable argument, already used by the United States Attorney-General's Office as recently as 19 March, that if he is released there is risk of flight?

Why has the Government of the United States disregarded the request for extradition submitted, with all the necessary requirements, by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela?

How is it possible that the most notorious terrorist in this hemisphere is being released while five Cuban youths are still ruthlessly imprisoned for the sole crime of fighting terrorism?

For Cuba, there is a clear answer. The terrorist's release has been concocted by the White House as compensation for Posada Carriles not to reveal what he knows, not to reveal the countless secrets he keeps concerning his lengthy period as an agent of the United States special services, when he was involved in Operation Condor and in the dirty war against Cuba, against Nicaragua and against other peoples of the world.

Full responsibility for the release of the terrorist and for the consequences stemming from it would be directly attributed to the United States Government and, particularly, to the President of that country.

Even now, after his release, the United States Government has all the information and the legal mechanisms to apprehend him again. It just takes the political will to wage a serious fight against terror and recall that, according to President Bush, "... if you provide haven for a terrorist, if you support a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you will be as guilty as the terrorists".

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Letter dated 19 April 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the decision adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 40th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 6 October 2005. I also refer to Security Council resolution 1633 (2005), of 21 October 2005, pursuant to which an International Working Group was established to assist the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in the implementation of its programme and to consolidate and strengthen the existing follow-up mechanisms.

In this regard, I am forwarding the text of the communiqué issued by the International Working Group at the conclusion of its 14th ministerial meeting, held in Abidjan on 13 April 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this communiqué to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-31672 (E) 240407

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Final communiqué of the 14th ministerial meeting of the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire

Abidjan, 13 April 2007

1. The 14th ministerial meeting of the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire was held in Abidjan on 13 April 2007, under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, and Mr. Abou Moussa, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). In attendance were the High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, and the representatives of Benin, Burkina Faso, France, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, ECOWAS, the African Union, the European Union, the International Organization of the Francophonie, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

2. The Group heard a briefing by the Prime Minister, Mr. Guillaume Soro, focusing on the new philosophy of compromise that allowed the successful conclusion of the direct dialogue and the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Accord. The Prime Minister also highlighted the initial measures taken and envisaged by the signatories to the Accord, including the forming of a new Government, in accordance with the schedule of implementation. The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction at the measures put in place to ensure the successful implementation of the key issues of the Accord, namely, identification, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the preparations for elections, and the integration of the armed forces. The Prime Minister invited the international community to fully support the process for resolving the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The Group congratulated the Prime Minister on his appointment and encouraged the Government to pursue its action with a view to creating the necessary conditions for the holding of credible elections.

3. The Group also heard a statement by the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on the purpose of the technical assessment mission in Côte d'Ivoire led by him. Furthermore, the Group heard statements by the High Representative for the elections on the electoral process, as well as by the Commanders of the impartial forces, who highlighted the measures taken with a view to supporting the implementation of the military and security provisions of the Ouagadougou Political Accord, including the signing of the quadripartite agreement abolishing the Zone of Confidence. The Commanders of the impartial forces also reaffirmed their readiness to continue their peace and security mission in Côte d'Ivoire and to contribute to the strengthening of confidence among all concerned Ivorian parties.

4. The Group welcomes the determination of the Ivorian parties to take full ownership of the peace process, and urges them to fulfil their commitments in good faith. Moreover, the Group reaffirms the readiness of the international community to accompany and support efforts to implement the Ouagadougou Political Accord.

5. In the light of the Ouagadougou Accord and in order to ensure a smooth coordination of efforts by national actors and their international partners, in particular the United Nations, the Group has requested its two co-chairs to undertake consultations with the relevant authorities of ECOWAS and the African Union on the role of the International Working Group, and to make recommendations thereon to the Security Council.

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Letter dated 20 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that the summary by the Government of Iraq concerning the Baghdad meeting of the countries neighbouring Iraq, the permanent members of the Security Council and international and regional organizations, which was held in Baghdad on 10 March 2007 (see annex), be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) T. Hamid **Al-Bayati**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

07-31678 (E) 240407 250407

Annex to the letter dated 20 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic and English]

Baghdad meeting of the countries neighbouring Iraq, the permanent members of the Security Council and international and regional organizations

10 March 2007

At the invitation of the Government of Iraq, senior officials from the countries neighbouring Iraq, representatives of the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the ambassadors of the United Nations Security Council permanent member States met in Baghdad today to discuss measures to support the Government's action to improve the current situation in Iraq, and to prepare for a later meeting of Foreign Ministers that will decide on these measures.

The meeting, held at Iraq's Foreign Ministry, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Nouri al-Maliki, with a speech in which he reviewed the situation, and reported on the latest developments in the Government's efforts to achieve national reconciliation and establish the rule of law.

The Iraqi delegation to the meeting was headed by the Foreign Minister of Iraq, Mr. Hoshyar Zebari.

All participants expressed their support for Iraq's sovereignty, independence, national unity and territorial integrity. They recognized the principle of non-interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and the necessity to prevent Iraq becoming a theatre for settling scores among them. They also expressed their support and backing for the Iraqi Government's efforts to achieve national reconciliation through a number of mechanisms, including mandated constitutional review.

The participants expressed their deep concern about sectarian and ethnic violence, expressed their concern and condemnation of the terrorism and continuing acts of violence that target Iraq's civilian population and its civil, educational, economic and religious institutions, and emphasized their support for Iraq in its efforts to confront terrorism and sectarian violence.

The participants also expressed their support for the efforts of the Iraqi Government to fight terrorism and enhance security in Iraq and the region, particularly by implementing the measures adopted by the Foreign and Interior Ministers of the countries neighbouring Iraq, measures including better coordination and cooperation between their security agencies, better border controls, and interdiction of the crossing of terrorist suspects through joint borders with Iraq.

The participants emphasized their support to the international conference project (International Compact with Iraq) within the framework of the United Nations and the resulting international cooperation and support for Iraq.

The participants expressed their thanks to the countries that host large numbers of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons. The Iraqi Government pledged to shoulder its responsibility, in cooperation with these countries and international organizations, and assist in providing support to create conditions that would allow the return of the refugees and displaced persons to the country.

The Iraqi delegation proposed to form three expert working groups to address the following issues, with the support of the United Nations and any of the neighbouring countries that wish to participate voluntarily:

- Security cooperation and coordination
- Iraqi refugees and displaced persons
- Fuel and energy supplies.

These working groups should meet as soon as possible, preferably before the end of this month, so that they can present their conclusions and recommendations to the meeting of Foreign Ministers.

The participants reiterated the statement of the Foreign Ministers meeting in Tehran to hold the next meeting at the level of Foreign Ministers in Baghdad and took note of Egypt's proposal to hold the neighbouring countries' meeting in Cairo as well as Turkey's proposal to hold an expanded meeting in Istanbul, and authorized Iraq's Foreign Minister to consult with his counterparts in order to determine the date, place and scope of participation as soon as possible.

In conclusion, the participants expressed their thanks to the Government of the Republic of Iraq for hosting this meeting, emphasizing its importance and the political message of support their attendance in Baghdad conveys. This importance is underscored by the fact that it is the first meeting at this level held in Baghdad since 1990.